

News Release

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7th Annual Solar Car Race Results

LEBANON, N.H.-The U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL), with other area businesses, sponsored the Seventh Annual Upper Valley Junior Solar Sprint (JSS) championships on Thursday, May 27. The championships were held at the Carter-Witherell Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire.

This event brought together approximately 240 seventh- and eighth-grade students from 17 area schools and 100 solar-powered, model cars from central and northern Vermont and New Hampshire. These students designed and built, and raced their solar models. This was one of several area races throughout New England that qualifies winning racers for the Regional Race to be held at Payson Park in Portland, Maine, on Saturday, June 12.

And the winners for the Upper Valley Area Competition are:

Overall Speed

1st Place: Corinne Hirai and Allison Cram (Lebanon Jr. High)

2nd Place: Heather Mcdanolds (Haverhill Cooperative Middle School)

2nd Place: Ben Teschner (Haverhill Cooperative Middle School)

3rd Place: Ryan Murphy (Waits River Valley School)

Design and Merit

1st Place: Niki Ligett, Matt Sweitzer and Garrett Husband (Lyme School)

1st Place: Brendan Clancy, Eric Phetteplace and Ryan Creighton (Lyme School)

2nd Place: Ben Teschner (Haverhill Cooperative Middle School) (also placed in Overall Speed) 3rd Place: Mason Ames, Owen Landis and Walker Landis (Chesham, N.H., homeschoolers)

According to Mr. Byron Young, the Area Race Coordinator, this year's race went very well. He states that, "I would like to congratulate all participants on a great race! Additionally, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all the sponsors and volunteers in the Upper Valley that continue to support this educational outreach opportunity."

The Junior Solar Sprint is a science-based design and performance competition. The key components, a solar panel and a small electric motor, are provided to the students. The remainder of the car is designed and built by a small team of students with help and advice from parents, local engineers and scientists from the public and private sector along with their teachers. The object of the 1999 JSS competition is to design and build

a vehicle that will solve a common engineering problem: transport a payload from one place to another in the shortest time possible, using only the available solar power. Over the past seven years, this program has introduced over 4,000 students from 43 local schools to engineering in the real world. The schools in our region have done exceptionally well in the New England area races, and the Upper Valley area is the only area in New England that has placed multiple cars in the finals every year since the beginning of this program.

More information may be obtained by contacting the Area Race Coordinator Mr. Byron Young at (603) 646-4602, email: byoung@crrel.usace.army.mil.

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